



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE AGENTS SEIZE FORFEITED HOMESTEAD HOME VALUED AT APPROXIMATELY \$750,000

House belonged to a Miami drug dealer

HOMESTEAD, FL – A forfeited home valued at approximately \$750,000 belonging to an incarcerated Miami drug dealer was seized early this morning by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents following a court order issued yesterday allowing the U.S. government to take immediate possession of the home.

An ICE-led narcotics investigation launched in Feb. 2004 revealed that the home located at 25425 S.W. 212th Avenue, Homestead, Florida belonged to 33-year-old Yoel Tirado.

The investigation also revealed that Tirado, a citizen of Cuba, was linked to a local narcotics manufacturing and distribution organization. Tirado was subsequently indicted, arrested and convicted. He is currently serving a 15-year prison term.

The seized property, which was deemed by a court to have been purchased through illegal drug profits, had been occupied for months by individuals claiming no association to Tirado. ICE agents attempted to take possession of the property several times, but the current occupants fortified the property to prevent their entry.

Agents of ICE's Special Response Team (SRT), along with officers of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Air and Marine Branch, Miami-Dade Police Department, City of Miami Special Response Team, Miami-Dade Animal Control and the Miami-Dade Medical Examiner's Office worked jointly today to enforce the court order.

"This seizure sends the clear message to drug traffickers that our agents are working tirelessly to find and seize assets obtained through illegal drug profits," said Jesus Torres, ICE special agent-in-charge in Miami. "We will continue using our broad investigative authorities to dismantle the enterprises of drug traffickers in our community."

The investigation into the drug organization has led to the seizure of eight properties valued at more than \$2 million, three Hummers and an excess of \$620,000 in cash.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.